

**COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS****Notice of Public Meeting of the U.S. Virgin Islands Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

**ACTION:** Notice of virtual business meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act, that the U.S. Virgin Islands Advisory Committee (Committee) to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will hold a public meeting via Zoom. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss, plan, and vote as needed on matters related to the Committee's inaugural civil rights project.

**DATES:** Thursday, October 5, 2023, from 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Atlantic Time.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held via Zoom.

*Meeting Link (Audio/Visual):* <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1618230846>.

*Join by Phone (Audio Only):* 1–833–435–1820 USA Toll Free; Meeting ID: 161 823 0846#.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David Barreras, Designated Federal Officer, at [dbarreras@usccr.gov](mailto:dbarreras@usccr.gov) or 1–202–656–8937.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This Committee meeting is available to the public through the meeting link above. Any interested member of the public may attend this meeting. An open comment period will be provided to allow members of the public to make oral statements as time allows. Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, public minutes of the meeting will include a list of persons who are present at the meeting. If joining via phone, callers can expect to incur regular charges for calls they initiate over wireless lines, according to their wireless plan. The Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls they initiate over land-line connections to the toll-free telephone number. Closed captioning is available by selecting “CC” in the meeting platform. To request additional accommodations, please email [svillanueva@usccr.gov](mailto:svillanueva@usccr.gov) at least 10 business days prior to the meeting.

Members of the public are entitled to submit written comments; the comments must be received in the regional office within 30 days following the scheduled meeting. Written

comments may be emailed to Sarah Villanueva at [svillanueva@usccr.gov](mailto:svillanueva@usccr.gov). Persons who desire additional information may contact the Regional Programs Coordination Unit at 1–202–656–8937.

Records generated from this meeting may be inspected and reproduced at the Regional Programs Coordination Unit Office, as they become available, both before and after the meeting. Records of the meetings will be available via [www.facadatabase.gov](http://www.facadatabase.gov) under the Commission on Civil Rights, U.S. Virgin Islands Advisory Committee Advisory Committee link. Persons interested in the work of this Committee are directed to the Commission's website, <http://www.usccr.gov>, or may contact the Regional Programs Coordination Unit at [svillanueva@usccr.gov](mailto:svillanueva@usccr.gov).

**Agenda**

- I. Welcome and Roll Call
- II. Announcements and Updates
- III. Committee Discussion
- IV. Next Steps
- V. Public Comment
- VI. Adjournment

Dated: September 15, 2023.

**David Mussatt,**

*Supervisory Chief, Regional Programs Unit.*

[FR Doc. 2023–20374 Filed 9–19–23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE P**

**COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS****Notice of Public Meeting of the New York Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

**ACTION:** Notice of virtual business meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act, that the New York Advisory Committee (Committee) to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will hold a public meeting via Zoom. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss draft findings in the Committee's draft report on the New York child welfare system and its impact on Black children and families.

**DATES:** Friday, October 20, 2023, from 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held via Zoom.

*Registration Link (Audio/Visual):* <https://bit.ly/3PbvvdX>.

*Join by Phone (Audio Only):* 1–833–435–1820 USA Toll Free; Webinar ID: 161 785 2445#.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mallory Trachtenberg, DFO, at [mtrachtenberg@usccr.gov](mailto:mtrachtenberg@usccr.gov) or 1–202–809–9618.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This Committee meeting is available to the public through the registration link above. Any interested member of the public may attend this meeting. An open comment period will be provided to allow members of the public to make oral statements as time allows. Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, public minutes of the meeting will include a list of persons who are present at the meeting. If joining via phone, callers can expect to incur regular charges for calls they initiate over wireless lines, according to their wireless plan. The Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls they initiate over land-line connections to the toll-free telephone number. Closed captioning is available by selecting “CC” in the meeting platform. To request additional accommodations, please email [svillanueva@usccr.gov](mailto:svillanueva@usccr.gov) at least 10 business days prior to the meeting.

Members of the public are entitled to submit written comments; the comments must be received in the regional office within 30 days following the scheduled meeting. Written comments may be emailed to Mallory Trachtenberg at [mtrachtenberg@usccr.gov](mailto:mtrachtenberg@usccr.gov). Persons who desire additional information may contact the Regional Programs Coordination Unit at 1–202–809–9618.

Records generated from this meeting may be inspected and reproduced at the Regional Programs Coordination Unit Office, as they become available, both before and after the meeting. Records of the meetings will be available via [www.facadatabase.gov](http://www.facadatabase.gov) under the Commission on Civil Rights, New York Advisory Committee link. Persons interested in the work of this Committee are directed to the Commission's website, <http://www.usccr.gov>, or may contact the Regional Programs Coordination Unit at [svillanueva@usccr.gov](mailto:svillanueva@usccr.gov).

**Agenda**

- I. Welcome and Roll Call
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Discussion: Draft Findings
- IV. Public Comment
- V. Next Steps
- VI. Adjournment

Dated: September 15, 2023.

**David Mussatt,**

*Supervisory Chief, Regional Programs Unit.*

[FR Doc. 2023–20365 Filed 9–19–23; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Institute of Standards and Technology

#### Adoption of Department of Energy Categorical Exclusions Under the National Environmental Policy Act

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has identified categorical exclusions (CEs) established by the Department of Energy (DOE) that cover categories of actions that NIST proposes to take. This notice identifies the DOE CEs and NIST's categories of proposed actions for which it intends to use DOE's CEs and describes the consultation between the agencies.

**DATES:** The CEs identified below are available for NIST to use for its proposed actions effective September 20, 2023.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jennifer Nist, NIST, telephone number 202–302–9541, email [jennifer.nist@nist.gov](mailto:jennifer.nist@nist.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Background

###### *NEPA and CEs*

Congress enacted the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. 4321–4347, (NEPA) in order to encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between humans and the environment, recognizing the profound impact of human activity and the critical importance of restoring and maintaining environmental quality to the overall welfare of humankind. 42 U.S.C. 4321, 4331. NEPA seeks to ensure that agencies consider the environmental effects of their proposed major actions in their decision-making processes and inform and involve the public in that process. NEPA created the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), which promulgated NEPA implementing regulations, 40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508 (CEQ regulations).

To comply with NEPA, agencies determine the appropriate level of review of any major federal action—an environmental impact statement (EIS),

environmental assessment (EA), or categorical exclusion (CE). 40 CFR 1501.3. If a proposed action is likely to have significant environmental effects, the agency must prepare an EIS and document its decision in a record of decision. 40 CFR part 1502, 1505.2. If the proposed action is not likely to have significant environmental effects or the effects are unknown, the agency may instead prepare an environmental assessment (EA), which involves a more concise analysis and process than an EIS. 40 CFR 1501.5. Following the EA, the agency may conclude that the action will have no significant effects and document that conclusion in a finding of no significant impact. 40 CFR 1501.6. If the analysis concludes that the action is likely to have significant effects, however, then an EIS is required.

Under NEPA and the CEQ regulations, a Federal agency also can establish CEs—categories of actions that the agency has determined normally do not significantly affect the quality of the human environment—in their agency NEPA procedures. 42 U.S.C. 4336e(1); 40 CFR 1501.4, 1507.3(e)(2)(ii), 1508.1(d). If an agency determines that a CE covers a proposed action, it then evaluates the proposed action for extraordinary circumstances in which a normally excluded action may have a significant effect. 40 CFR 1501.4(b). If no extraordinary circumstances are present, the agency may apply the CE to the proposed action without preparing an EA or EIS. 42 U.S.C. 4336(a)(2), 40 CFR 1501.4. If extraordinary circumstances are present, the agency nevertheless may still categorically exclude the proposed action if it determines that there are circumstances that lessen the impacts or other conditions sufficient to avoid significant effects.

Section 109 of NEPA, enacted as part of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, allows a Federal agency to “adopt” another Federal agency’s CEs for proposed actions. 42 U.S.C. 4336c. To use another agency’s CEs under section 109, the borrowing agency must identify the relevant CEs listed in another agency’s (“establishing agency”) NEPA procedures that covers the borrowing agency’s category of proposed actions or related actions; consult with the establishing agency to ensure that the proposed adoption of the CE for a category of actions is appropriate; identify to the public the CE that the borrowing agency plans to use for its proposed actions; and document adoption of the CE. 42 U.S.C. 4336c. NIST has prepared this notice to meet these statutory requirements.

##### *NIST's Programs*

Founded in 1901, NIST's mission is to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life. Historically, NIST has carried out this mission through, for example, operation of the NIST Laboratories, conducting world-class research, often in close collaboration with industry, that advances the nation's technology infrastructure and helps U.S. companies continually improve products and services.

In August 2022, the Congress passed the CHIPS Act of 2022, which amended Title XCIX of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, 15 U.S.C. 4651 *et seq.*, also known as the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) for America Act. The law provides the Department of Commerce with \$50 billion for a suite of programs to strengthen and revitalize the U.S. position in semiconductor research, development, and manufacturing. CHIPS for America encompasses two offices within NIST responsible for implementing the law: the CHIPS Research and Development Office is investing \$11 billion into developing a robust domestic R&D ecosystem, while the CHIPS Program Office is dedicating \$39 billion to provide incentives for investment in facilities and equipment in the United States. NIST is uniquely positioned to successfully administer the CHIPS for America program because of the bureau's strong relationships with U.S. industries, its deep understanding of the semiconductor ecosystem, and its reputation as fair and trusted.

##### II. DOE Categorical Exclusions

NIST has identified the following CEs listed in appendices A and B to subpart D of DOE's NEPA regulations, 10 CFR part 1021. Each of the DOE CEs includes conditions on the scope or application of the CE within the text of the numbered paragraphs listed below and within the integral elements in DOE's regulations (10 CFR part 1021, subpart D, appendix B (1)–(5)). Under each CE, NIST has described categories of proposed actions for which NIST may use the CE. The list of categories comprises the categories of actions for which NIST contemplates using the CE at this time; NIST may expand use of the CEs identified below to other activities where appropriate.